...aieſties Letters Patent, concer-
...owne and Port of Haſting, in
the Countie of Suſſex.

ELizabeth, by the grace of God, Queene of England, Fraunce and Ireland, defender of the fayth &c. To all people to whom theſe our letters patent ſhal come, greeting. Where of our owne knowledge and certeine ſcience we doe vnderſtand, that our Towne and Port of Haſting, in our Countie of Suſſex, being the auncient Towne of our Cinque Portes, is ſcituated vpon the maine Sea, verie nere the middeſt of a great Bay or open place, lying betweene two points of the land, which ſtretche fooreth farre into the Sea, called the Beachy and the Naſſe, diſtant eache from the other thirtie miles, right oppoſite to the Realme of Fraunce, the auncient enemie of our Countrey: as we are credibly enfourmed, the ſame Towne hath of long time bene a place not onely very well inhabited with warlike people, and greatly repleniſhed with good Mariners and other men meete and ſeruiceable for our Nauy, well ſtored with Shippes, Barkes, Crayers, and Boates, but alſo ſufficiently furniſhed with Armour, and Artillery of all ſortes, both for Sea and Land: alſo very meete and commodious for Fiſhing, and the Bay plenteouſly abounding with all ſorts of Fiſh, according to the ſeuerall ſeaſons of the yeere: by reaſon whereof the ſame Towne hath of long time bene by the inhabitants thereof, in time of warres, manfully defended againſt the ſundry inuaſions and attempts of the French Nation, our coaſte thereaboutes lying very open againſt the French, by them often kept from ſpoile. Our Marchants and louing Subiects, and other Trauellers ſayling along that coaſt, haue often times by their Shippes, and often times by their harborough, beene ſaued and reſcued from the furie of the enemies, and the tyrannie of Pirates: our Nauy, and the Nauy of ſundry our noble Progenitors, Kinges of this Realme, the better appointed by reaſon of their ſkilfull Mariners, and cunning Seamen: Alſo our Houſehold, our Citizens of London, and our Countreys to the ſaid Port adioyning, greatly benefited by their fiſhing. And where our ſaid Towne hath of long time had a Peere or Harborough made of Timber, and other thinges ſet and placed in the Sea, for the ſuccour of the Seamen, and defence of their Shippes, Barkes, Crayers and Boates, againſt the great rage and furie of the Sea, which hath bene alwaies mainteyned at the great and importable charges of the inhabitants of our ſaid Towne of Haſting, vntill of late time the ſame Peere or Harborough was at a ſuddaine, by the great violence and extreme rage of the Sea, broken downe and caried away: ſithence which time the Towne is much decayed, the traffique of Marchants thither forſaken, the fiſhing, by reaſon of the dangerous landing, litle vſed, the riche and wealthy men gone thence, and the poore men yet remaining would gladly doe the like, if without offence of our lawes they might be elſewhere receiued, whereby our people are likely to periſhe, and our ſaide Port likely to be ſubuerted and become deſolate, or els the people there by neceſſitie driuen to commit great and heynous offences, to the great hinderance of the publique weale, vnleſſe ſome ſpeedie remedie be for them prouided. And where we be enformed by diuers of our priuie Counſell and Nobilitie, and by diuers Artificers verie cunning and ſkilfull in that kinde of facultie, that

a verie good Hauen or Rhoade, for the arriuing and sauegard of Shippes, Barkes, Crayers and Boates, may nere vnto the saide Porte with no great charge be made, to the great relefe of the inhabitants, and of all Marchants and Trauellers sayling along the narrowe Seas, and to the strength of our saide Coaste: And that the Inhabitants of our saide Porte be ready and willing to bestowe their landes, goodes, and labors, to the vttermost of their power, to accomplish the same: notwithstanding of themselues very vnhable to finishe so great a worke, likely as it is thought to amount vnto the summe of foure thousand poundes. We therefore considering the premisses, and minding to prouide for the preseruation of our people, the maintenance of our Nauy and Towne, for the defence of our Coaste, and of Marchants and Trauellers, and that the prouision of our Household, our Citie and Countrey be not diminished, at the humble sute of our Bailife, Jurates, and Comminaltie of our saide Towne of Hasting, doe by these our letters Patents not onely giue and graunt vnto our saide Bailife, Jurats, and Comminaltie, full power and authoritie, to make newe, and finishe one Hauen, in such place or places nere vnto our saide Towne and Port, as to them shall seeme most conuenient, and to the finishing and accomplishing thereof, yeelde our Royall assent and consent: but also for the furtherance and better helping forth of the same, we do commend the same good and laudable intent and purpose, to the charitable and liberal contribucion and beneuolence of all and singuler our louing subiects dwelling within any our Realmes and Dominions, that the rather for our recommendation, the more liberall contribution by our saide Subiects may be yeelded to the finishing of the saide Hauen, a worke tending much to the defence of our Realmes, and to the profite of the common wealth of the same, and which will be cause to auoide manie great inconueniences that may insue by the neglecting thereof: and also be an euident declaration of the forward and willing mindes of all our louing Subiects, to augment the prosperitie of our Realmes and Countreys. We of our speciall grace, certeine knowledge, and meere motion, haue giuen and graunted, and by these our letters Patent, doe giue and graunt full licence, permission, and authoritie to our faithfull and welbeloued Subiects, Richard Calueley, and John Jefferey, Jurates of our saide Towne of Hasting, and William Relfe of Oze Gentleman, and to euery of them; and to all and euery other person or persons that shalbe thereunto deputed and assigned by them, or by any two of them, by writing vnder the common seale of our saide Towne of Hasting, to aske, receiue, collect, and take of all maner of persons whatsoeuer, Spirituall or Temporall, English borne or Strangers, in all places, aswell within Liberties as without, exempt or not exempt, our Citizens of London or els where, within any our Realmes, Cities and Dominions whersoeuer, Christian contribucion and beneuolence of all our saide louing Subiects, that it may or shall please God to moone or stirre them to giue, contribute, yeelde and pay towards the newe making of the said Hauen. And for the better and more speedie execution of this our pleasure, we doe by these our said letters Patent, will, require, and straightly command all our Sherifes in their seuerall Sheires and Counties, all our Justices of peace in their seuerall limittes, and all Maiors, Baylifes, and all other head Officers, within all Cities, Townes corporate, and other Jurisdictions, and also all Parsons, Vicars, Ministers, and Curates of Churches and Parishes, not onely of their owne partes to be helping with their liberall deuotion toward the saide good and laudable worke, but also to recommend our speciall pleasure, and the furtherance of the saide Hauen in their seuerall Counties, Limittes, Cities, Townes, Liberties, Parish Churches, Hamlets, or Villages, for the better obteining of liberall contribution thereunto. And further our will & pleasure is, that some of the honorable of our priuie Counsel shal vpon the sight of these presents, or of the Exemplification of the same, at the request of the said Richard Calueley, John Jefferey, and William Relfe, or of any of them, direct their letters to the Lord Maior of our Citie of London, & to the Justices of peace of the same Citie, to all Sherifes in euery our Sheires or Counties within our Realme and Dominions, and to all Maiors, Bailifes, Gouernors, and head Officers of Cities, Boroughs, Townes corporate, Ilandes, and Franchised places, commaunding the said Lord Maior, the Justices, the said Sherifes, Bailifes, Gouernors, and head Officers aforesaid, that they and euery of them, within their seuerall Limittes, Jurisdictions, and Liberties, at the quarter Sessions, or generall assemblie within their seuerall Limittes, Jurisdictions or Liberties, which shalbe next after the receipt of the said letters, or of these presents, or the Exemplification of the same, shall direct the tenor of this our pleasure to all and singuler Justices of peace within their seuerall Limittes, Jurisdictions or Liberties, requiring, and straightly commaunding them & euery of them in our name, to appoint with all cõuenient speede within their seuerall Limittes, one Constable in euery Hundred, Rape, Lathe, or Wapentake at the leaste, & one Churchwarden in euery Parish, and them to commaund and exhort, not onely to be liberall them selues in their contribucion, but also that the saide Constables and Churchwardens shall write the name of euery Parish, and of euery man of habilitie within the same, and of them to aske & receiue their deuocion, and earnestly in our name to exhort them to liberalitie, in contributing to the making of the saide Hauen, and truely to write downe the summe which euery man shall giue, and the money which they shall thereby collect and receiue, and the names of euery giuer, and the true summe which euery one shall giue, and al

so the names of all such as shall not giue, or shall refuse to contribute, in writing shall within one moneth next after they shall haue notice of this our pleasure, deliuer vp vnto such our Justices of peace of whom they receiued their charge, if he shall then be liuing, otherwise to such of our Justices as shalbe next dwelling thereaboutes. And that our further pleasure is, that our saide Justices of peace shall by their warraunt call before them, all and singuler such persons as shal refuse to giue or contribute liberally towards this good worke, and vnderstand the cause of their refusal, and vnto them declare our pleasure, exhorting and perswading them to conformitie, which if they shall notwithstanding, obstinately refuse, then to certifie their names and dwelling places to vs, or to our priuie Counsell. And that our said Justices of peace and euery of them, shall at the Sessions or generall assemblie, holden next within their saide seuerall Sheires, Limittes, Jurisdictions or Liberties, deliuer and yeelde vp vnto the saide Lord Maior, Sherifes, Maiors, Bailifes, Gouernours, or head Officers, by bill indented, vnto which their handes or markes shalbe set, whereof the one part shall remaine with the said Justices, the other with the said Lord Maior, Sherifes, Maiors, Bailifes, and other head Officers, all such summes of money as they shall haue receiued as aforesaid, together with the same writings made of the names and of the money giuers: and the said Lord Maior, Sherifes, Maiors, Bailifes, Gouernors and head Officers, and euery of them shall within one moneth next after the receipte thereof, transport and carrie, or cause to be carried vnto our said Citie of London, all such summes of money as they shall haue receiued towards the same contribucion, together with the said billes indented, and the same money there shall pay, and the saide billes indented there deliuer to our louing Subiects, Thomas Smith Esquire, one of the Customers of our Citie of London, John Heynes Esquire, Serieant of our Catry, and William Heynes Gentleman, Purueior of our prouision of Sea fish, or to one of them at the newe Mansion house of the saide Thomas Smith, within our said Citie of London, who vpon the receipt thereof shall giue vnto the saide Lorde Maior, Sherifes, Maiors, Bailifes, Gouernors, and other head Officers from time to time, an acquittance of the receipt thereof, and shall keepe the same money and billes indented in one Cheste, to remaine with the saide Thomas Smith vnder three seuerall lockes, whereof one key to remaine with the saide Thomas Smith, an other with the saide John Heynes, and the third with the saide William Heynes, and that they from time to time, vpon demaund thereof to be made at the new Mansion house of the said Thomas Smith, within our saide Citie of London, shall yeelde and pay ouer the same money, and deliuer the said bils indented so by them receiued, and euery part thereof vnto our welbeloued, the right honorable Anthony Viscount Montague, Knight of the most honorable order of the Garter, William Lorde Cobham, Warden of our Cinque Portes, and Constable of our Castle of Douer, Thomas Lorde Buckhurst, the said Richard Calueley, John Jefferey, & William Relfe, or to any three of them, whereof some one of the right honorable aforesaide or his sufficient deputie to be one: which saide right honorable Anthony Viscount Montague, William Lord Cobham, Thomas Lord Buckhurst, and the saide Richard Calueley, John Jefferey, and William Relfe, we doe ordaine, appoint and constitute, Surueyors of the said worke, giuing them, and to any three of them, whereof some one of the said honorable, or his sufficient deputie to be one, full power and authoritie to set out, direct, gouerne, order, and rule the said worke, and the workemen about the same, and the saide workemen and labozers to pay, or cause to be paied: and of their proceedings and successe in the saide worke, to certifie vs or our priuie Counsell vnder their handes and seales euery halfe yeere: So that expresse mencion of the certaintie of the premisses, or of any other gift or graunt heretofore made by vs, or by any of our progenitors to the said Richard Calueley, John Jefferey, and William Relfe, and in these presents be not rehearsed or declared, or any acte, statute, ordinance, prouision or restraint to the contrary hereof, had, made, ordeined or prouided, or any other cause or matter whatsoeuer to the contrary in any wyse, notwithstanding.

In witnesse whereof, we haue caused these our letters to be made Patentes: witnesse our selfe at Cheynis, the one and thirtieth day of October, in the twentieth yeere of our reigne. 1578.

God saue the Queene.

Imprinted at London by Christopher
Barker, Printer to the Queenes Maiestie.